

Appl. No.: 10/054,709
Amtd. dated 06/14/2006
Reply to Office action of February 22, 2006

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 22, 2006, claims 19-38 were pending and rejected as being Final. Claims 19-21, 24-32, 34, and 36-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bigham (U.S. Patent 5,544,161) and Safadi (U.S. Patent 5,572,517). Claims 22, 23, 33, and 35 were rejected in light of the above references and further in view of the disclosure as filed.

The Office Action stated:

Applicant is advised to more particularly define the routing data claimed in order to overcome the art of record. For example, defining the routing data to include the network address of a session gateway and the network address of a service gateway would overcome the Bigham reference, because Bigham teaches upstream signaling traffic from a VIU to the level 1 gateway occurs along dedicated virtual paths (Col. 26, lines 42-55, particularly lines 53-55). In the claims current form, user identification is an example of routing data as the virtual path is selected "based on" where a request originates.

Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly define the routing data claimed in order to overcome the art of record.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant has amended the specification to state that an NSAP (network service access point) or network address is used to route messages from the SRM to the session gateway. Support for this can be found on page 28 of the provisional application on which the present application claims priority from. The contents of the provisional are incorporated by reference in the present application and thus, this amendment to the specification does not represent new matter.

Applicant has also amended the claims to better define the routing. Claim 19 has been amended to recite that the "first session setup request from the session manager wherein the first

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session setup request includes a network address of a Session Gateway (SESS-G)." Applicant has also recited that the first session setup request includes the routing data in a "in a user-user data element comprising:

service data reflective of the selected service offering, and
routing data comprising a first routing data identifying a session Service Gateway (SVC-G) gateway and a second routing data identifying a service gateway;

transmitting the first session setup request from the set top box to a session resource manager (SRM);

routing the first session setup request from the SRM to a the Session Gateway (SESS-G) based the network address routing data;

routing a second session setup request message from the Session Gateway to a the Service Gateway (SVC-G) based on the first routing data identifying the SVC-G;

routing the second session setup request message from the SVC-G to one of a plurality of services using the second routing data identifying the service."

Applicant submits that these amendments further define the routing of the information and distinguishes claim 19 from the cited references. Based on the amendment, Applicant has now cancelled claim 29. Amendments similar to independent claim 19 can also be found in independent claim 31, which applicant submits can also be distinguished from the cited references on the same basis. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification in pages 14-17 and Fig. 4. Applicant submits that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references and respectfully requests allowance of the claims. Several dependent claims have been amended as well, which are consistent with the amendments to their corresponding independent claims. Applicant submits that the dependent claims are patentable from the cited references as they incorporate the limitations of the independent claim from which they depend from.

CONCLUSION

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

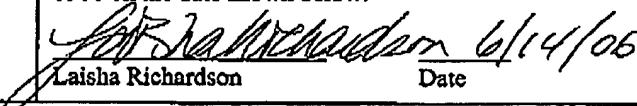
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However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Karl H. Koster
Registration No. 50,684

<p>Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000 Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777</p>	<p>CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.  Laisha Richardson Date</p>
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